

Message Text

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70

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06

PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /080 W

----- 122671

O 161905Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL IBADAN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1674

CDC ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS IBADAN 0116

LAGOS FOR DR. HUTCHINS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, NI, GW

SUBJECT: EVACUATION LASSA FEVER VICTIM TO GERMANY

1. LOCAL CATHOLIC MISSIONARY EXECUTIVE TELEPHONED FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO ME 1900 HOURS LOCAL.

A. FRG HAS REFUSED SEND CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO LAGOS OR IBADAN TO EVACUATE GERMAN NATIONAL LASSA FEVER VICTIM, DR. MANDRELLA, BECAUSE AIRCRAFT CREW WOULD HAVE TO BE QUARANTINED UPON RETURN GERMANY.

B. US EMBASSY BONN HAS OFFERED FRG A US AIRCRAFT AND CREW TO EVACUATE MANDRELLA, WHICH FRG HAS "PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED".

2. WITHOUT KNOWING VALIDITY ABOVE INFORMATION, BUT AFTER TALKING FURTHER WITH MEDICAL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH MANDRELLA'S CASE, AND WITH EMBASSY REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER LAGOS, STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY US INVOLVEMENT MANDRELLA EVACUATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

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A. MANDRELLA IS RECOVERING AND CONSIDERED OUT OF DANGER, BUT

WILL REMAIN POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS FOR APPROXIMATELY 3 MORE WEEKS;

B. LASSA FEVER CONSIDERED HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS, BUT METHOD TRANSMISSION UNKNOWN;

C. BRITISH PHYSICIAN ON SCENE, DR. CARGILL, HAS BEEN TREATING MANDRELLA SUCCESSFULLY, HAS NOT YET SHOWN SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE ITSELF, AND AT LAST INTERVIEW INTENDS REMAIN WITH MANDRELLA UNTIL HE FULLY RECOVERED AND NO LONGER INFECTIOUS;

D. TWO QUALIFIED YALE UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS EXPECTED ON SCENE FROM U.S. EARLY NEXT WEEK AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER ATLANTA PREPARED SEND SPECIALIST AND SERUM;

E. SERUM IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY, PRESENTLY LOCATED IN NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND U.S.. NONE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN GERMANY SHOULD MANDRELLA REQUIRE MORE OR INFECT OTHERS.

5. IT APPEARS IN LIGHT ABOVE MANDRELLA BETTER OFF HERE THAN IN GERMANY AND THAT PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATION DICTATES ISOLATING DISEASE THIS AREA UNTIL IT DIES OUT.
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